

REMARKS

The above amendment and these remarks are responsive to the Office Action mailed November 22, 2004. Claims 8-28 and 32-34 remain in the case. Claims 1-7 and 29-31 are withdrawn.

Claims 8-28 and 32-34 are rejected under 35 USC §112, first paragraph, in view of the term "off-gas." This term has been changed to "diffuse." Claims 8-14 are rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, in view of the term "predictable." This term has been changed to "determinable." With respect to the Examiner's comments regarding claims 16-17, claim 16 has been amended accordingly and claim 17 canceled.

Substantive Rejections

The claims stand rejected in view of Delente and Miekka separately and in combination.

In general, the three independent claims of the present case have been amended to include the limitations of (1) providing a solid source of hydrogen carbonate ions or carbonate ions and (2) producing carbon dioxide from an aqueous solution substantially without the addition of acid.

Delente teaches producing carbon dioxide where the carbon dioxide source is a CO₂ tank. Miekka teaches producing carbon dioxide by adding acid to a solution containing limestone.

The present invention is significant, among other reasons, in that it teaches the production of carbon dioxide from solution in a manner that does not require the use of dangerous acids or the expensive transporting and burdensome lugging around of heavy, pressurized CO₂ tanks.

Claim 8 as amended includes the limitations of dependent claims 11 and 13. Claim 15 as amended includes the limitations of dependent claims 18 and 20. Claim 23 as amended includes the limitation of dependent claim 26.

Applicant respectfully submits that the claimed subject matter as amended herein is patentably distinct from the cited art because the cited art, individual or in combination, does not disclose or suggest the claimed subject matter. Applicant also respectfully submits that the amendments herein are appropriate because they involve the inclusion of

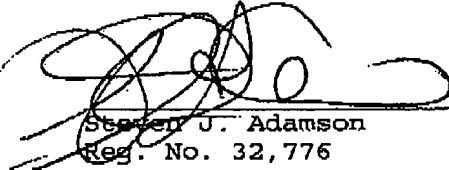
subject matter from previously presented dependent claims into independent claims.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 8-28 and 32-34 are now in condition for allowance and early notification of same is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would help further the prosecution of this case, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the listed telephone number. The Assistant Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge underpayment of any fees (including any filing fees under 37 C.F.R. \$1.16 for additional claims and any patent application processing fees under 37 C.F.R. \$1.17 including any fee for extension of time) associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 01-0272. A duplicate copy of this authorization is enclosed.

Respectfully Submitted
on behalf of Applicant,

Date: 2-17-05

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